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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 4 APR 50

SUBJECT North Korean Factories Supplying
Military Needs

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1. Supplies for the North Korean army are produced in state-controlled factories under strict military supervision. This applies not only to munitions and weapons, but to clothing, transportation equipment, and provisions, even subsidiary foods.
2. Staple foods, such as rice, starches, and the raw materials for wheat gluten, glucose, and other grains, for many army units were prepared until May 1949 in the Pyongyang Grain Production Factory. On 19 May, however, the factory was burned down, and since that date grains have been supplied to army units by the local rice mill nearest their station. Subsidiary foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, are procured by the army locally through consumers' cooperatives.
3. Military uniforms are produced by three plants, two of which are spinning and weaving mills, the third a clothing factory. Cotton cloth is made by the Chongjin Spinning Mill at Sunamdong (129-44, 41-42), near Chongjin, North Hamgyong, employing more than three hundred workers, and by a large mill at Sariwon (125-44, 38-30), Hwanghae Province, employing about seven hundred workers. Textiles from the latter plant are used exclusively for uniforms. The actual manufacture of garments is handled by the clothing factory in Chang-dong (倉洞) District, Pyongyang.
4. Horses for the army are supplied by the military horse breeding farm at Aoji (130-25, 42-30), Kyongwon County, North Hamgyong, formerly used for the same purpose by the Japanese army. Some army horses are also bred in the Pyonggang (127-18, 38-24) area of Kangwon Province.
5. Gun powder and explosives are among the products of the People's Factory at Hungnam (127-38, 39-50), South Hamgyong, which also makes fertilizer, sulfuric acid, and carbide. The gun powder and some explosives from this plant are kept for the army; some explosives are also bartered to the Chinese Communist armies in Manchuria in return for grain. This plant also sends gun powder to the Kaishantun (approximately 129-45, 42-42) pulp factory in Chientao Province to be made into cartridges for the North Korean armies.*

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6. Military scoop-shovels are no longer being manufactured, since the former Japan High Frequency Heavy Industry Company in Songjin (129-12, 40-40) has closed down temporarily.

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* ~~Comment:~~ For a previous discussion of the plant at Kaishantun, see

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